

IOWA OUTDOORS

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

www.iowadnr.gov

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LEAF LOOKERS HEADING TO NORTHEAST IOWA

HARPERS FERRY, Iowa – The fall color spectacular is underway as the once green canvas of the Iowa timberland gives way to the dazzling oranges, yellows and reds hidden just below the surface. Iowa timberlands will be in full color for the next month, drawing thousands of leaf lookers to the show.

“The peak of fall color around northeast Iowa is October 10, but some color will hang on for another few weeks after,” said Bob Honeywell, area forester for the DNR at Yellow River State Forest. “It gets pretty busy over the next few weeks with the leaf lookers. It’s a popular season up here.”

The color change starts in northern Iowa and progresses south. Walnuts turn first, followed by elms, then sumacs and the bottomland species of cottonwoods and soft maples. Once the hard maples, ash, and hickories turn color, the season will be in full swing until the oaks finish off the display.

Weather can affect the quality of the fall colors. Dry weather with cool nights and pleasant days will bring out the best, while stormy, windy days can lessen the intensity of the display.

The best drive in northeast Iowa is probably along the Great River Road, which follows the bends of the Mississippi River, said Honeywell, the area's forester since 1985. The Mississippi valley is rough terrain that is mostly wooded. The view from the Great River Road includes Iowa and Wisconsin trees, from the bluffs to the bottomlands.

While the traffic can be heavy, the drive is generally relaxed. No one is in a hurry to get anywhere. "It's really a pretty relaxed period. People are getting out one last time before winter," he said.

The September-to-mid-October period is also a good time for bird migrations and is popular for camping and backpacking.

For the latest information on fall colors online, go to www.iowadnr.gov/forestry/fallcolor.html. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources maintains a colors hotline. Call 515-233-4110 for fall conditions across the state.

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[Electronic photo available]

IOWA GOOSE HUNTERS COULD SEE RECORD SEASON

By Lowell Washburn

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

If any group of waterfowl enthusiasts has the right to be happy, Iowa's Canada goose hunters can go to the head of the class. After providing decades of financial and volunteer support involving aggressive wetland restoration and Canada goose recovery programs, those same hunters are currently reaping the benefits of their labors.

According to DNR Waterfowl Biologist, Guy Zenner, Iowa goose hunters have bagged more than 70,000 honkers during each of the past two hunting seasons. The statewide take has established two back to back record goose harvests, and there's no reason to suspect that this year's hunt won't be a replay.

"Although recent duck migrations have been variable and unpredictable, Iowa goose hunting has become something that hunters can depend on," said Zenner.

"Statewide, I'd say that things are looking very good again this fall. There's plenty of water now and most of our river systems, marshes, and other wetland habitats are in really good condition. The annual grain harvest has begun, and farmers are already taking out corn and soybeans in virtually every Iowa county. As migrating geese began arriving from the north, an enticing combination of food [waste grain] and water will make the Iowa landscape extremely attractive," added Zenner.

According to a report released late last summer by the Canadian Fish & Wildlife Service, this year's production of giant Canada geese was very good in southern

Manitoba, and nesting success was rated as 'good to excellent' for Canada geese nesting on the remote windswept tundras of the Hudson Bay lowlands.

By contrast, a late [June] snow melt on the northern Arctic's Baffin Island resulted in a reduced hatch of lesser snow geese and a poor hatch of Richardson's [Hutchin's] Canada geese. Snow goose production across the central and western portions of the arctic was 'very good.'

"The production of giant Canada geese [from Iowa] was about average this summer, and we know that overall numbers from most goose populations have increased in Canada," said Zenner. "Whenever the next series of cold snaps hit, we should begin to see new geese arriving from Minnesota and Canada. During the first half of October, we'll also start to see more and more flocks of the smaller, arctic nesting species. From then on, the goose migration will continue for the remainder of the season until everything freezes shut up north.

"Hunters know the flocks are coming. Right now, it's just a question of waiting for cold weather to push the geese south," he said.

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RATHBUN HATCHERY BUSY STOCKING FISH

MORAVIA, Iowa - There will be no teary-eyed farewell for this send off; just a lid slamming shut, a snort from the engine and off they go. Another load of channel catfish leaves the Rathbun Fish Hatchery destined for a new home in an Iowa lake.

It's fall and the discussion on the outdoors is shifting from fishing rod to blaze orange cap. But the focus at the Rathbun Fish Hatchery continues to be fish; to raise and stock channel catfish, walleyes and muskies for the benefit of Iowa anglers in the years to come.

Hatchery staff will spend 28 days running two or three trucks per day over Iowa roads this fall stocking walleyes, and 16 days distributing channel catfish. Staff began stocking fish on Sept. 4 and will continue moving fish until around Nov. 1.

"It is a monumental task to keep doing that," said Andy Moore, supervisor for the Rathbun Fish Hatchery. "We have about six or seven drivers and we alternate them a lot."

The vacancy created when the channel catfish were loaded on the truck will be filled by 6,000 12-inch muskies from Spirit Lake that will remain at Rathbun until the stocking trucks come a calling in middle of May.

Muskies will have some company this winter. The hatchery will hold 100,000 channel catfish over the winter to be stocked next spring in protective cages in county conservation board managed lakes, and fed until they grow large enough to not be considered a meal for largemouth bass.

Once all the channel catfish set for fall stocking is finished, hatchery workers will begin stocking walleyes.

When the water temperature cools, staff will stock about 198,000 8-inch walleye fingerling in lakes larger than 500 acres. "Walleyes are easier to haul and survive better when the water is cooler," Moore said.

Lake Rathbun is one of the DNR's main lakes to collect brood fish for their eggs. Last spring, a cold snap in the middle of the walleye spawn pretty much shut off what had been an excellent start to the walleye collection, and the fish never returned.

The Rathbun Hatchery produced about 38 million walleye fry, 500,000 2-inch fingerlings and 198,000 8-inch advanced fingerlings. It also produced 65,000 channel catfish for the 2007 caged catfish program, 100,000 8-inch advanced fingerlings, 100,000 for farm ponds and an additional 100,000 channel catfish for the 2008 caged program.

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STATE CONSERVATION OFFICERS STRESSING SAFETY WITH BOW SEASON JUST AROUND THE CORNER

DES MOINES – State conservation officials are urging hunters to keep safety at the forefront with Iowa's ever-popular deer and fall turkey bow seasons just days away.

Authorities issued the reminder as Iowa's roughly 50,000 bow hunters anxiously await the Oct. 1 season opener. Most will be hunting from elevated positions, a common denominator in bow hunting accidents.

"Even though the number of bow hunting accidents is comparably low in Iowa, in virtually every case the accident could have been avoided if a few simple precautions were followed," said Rod Slings, Recreational Safety Coordinator for the Iowa DNR.

First and foremost, hunters should always wear a fall restraint system, whether it's during practice or actual hunting situations, Slings said,

"Investigations show a third of all treestand hunters will fall sometime during their bow hunting career. Seventy-five to 80-percent of the accidents happen on the way up or down the stand, or transitioning into the stand," Slings said. "It doesn't have to be that way. Bottom line, you should wear a fall restraint system whenever your feet leave

the ground. Just like your treestand, make sure the harness system is approved by the Treestand Manufacturers Association, and follow the manufacturer's directions on proper use."

Secondly, "Plan your hunt and hunt your plan. Period." He said. "Leave a detailed itinerary with a friend or family member, including directions to your hunt site, a map of your treestand locations and the time you expect to be home. If something happens, they know where to find you. Under no circumstance should you deviate from those plans.

"Carry an emergency signaling device, like a cell phone. You can't use it for hunting, but it could save your life in the event of an accident," Slings added. "And don't keep it in your truck or your gear bag. If you fall, and the phone is in your bag at the top of the treestand, it's not going to do you any good. Stick it in a pocket."

Other precautions Slings noted included making sure all gear is in good working condition, use a haul line to ferry gear up and down the tree and make slow, short movements when using a treestand. Also, take time to pick a tree that is strong and safe. Loose-bark trees, like shagbark hickory, are a poor choice, as are dying or damaged trees.

Finally, know your limitations.

"There is no need to take chances. Accidents don't discriminate between the novice and experienced hunters," Slings said. "The more you can do to ensure your own safety in the field, the better off you are."

For more information, contact Slings at 515-281-6152, or Alan Foster at 515-281-8874

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IOWANS ENCOURAGED TO CELEBRATE PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Every year, Iowa state parks treat visitors to beautiful scenery and cherished outdoors recreation. This month, Iowans can give back to their beloved parks during a national day of volunteer action.

On Sept. 29, volunteers across the country will help to beautify and preserve state and federal lands during the 14th Annual National Public Lands Day. The Iowa DNR's Keepers of the Land volunteer program invites Iowans to take part by volunteering at an Iowa state park.

Interested parties should contact their favorite Iowa state park and ask about potential volunteer activities. Current projects in many Iowa state parks would benefit from additional volunteers.

Possible activities include building or clearing trail, removing invasive species, picking up litter, helping with maintenance and construction and many other fun and rewarding tasks. Visit <http://www.iowadnr.com/parks/index.html> for a list of Iowa state parks and contact information.

National Public Lands Day occurs annually, bringing thousands of volunteers to the nation's public lands. Last year, 100,000 Americans volunteered across the country. Iowans who choose to participate will help to improve and protect the beauty and health of their state's public lands. Visit www.publiclandsday.org for more information about the national event.

Partner organizations with the Keepers of the Land also have many other volunteer opportunities planned for the coming month. Visit www.keepersoftheland.org for more information, including an on-line events calendar. Other upcoming activities include:

- The residential tree program, Operation ReLeaf events - Sept. 29 (Jefferson) and Oct. 6 (Thompson and Jewell). Contact Amy Oliver at (515) 281-6749 or at amy.oliver@dnr.iowa.gov or visit our website.
- The residential tree program, Plant Some Shade events - Oct. 4 (Fort Dodge), Oct. 11 (Waterloo), Oct. 13 (Oskaloosa), and Oct. 18 (Iowa City). Contact Matt Brewer at (515) 242-6892 or at matt.brewer@dnr.iowa.gov for more information or visit our website.

For more information, contact Merry Rankin at (515) 281-0878 or at merry.rankin@dnr.iowa.gov .

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STATE PRESERVES BOARD TO MEET OCT. 5 IN GLENWOOD

GLENWOOD – The State Preserves Advisory Board will meet at 8:30 a.m., Oct. 5, in the Visitors Center at Glenwood Resource Center, in Glenwood. The meeting is open to the public.

Preserve board members will meet at 1 p.m., Oct. 4, Visitors Center at Glenwood Resource Center, in Glenwood for a tour of the grounds and a loess hills prairie in the city limits of Council Bluffs. The tour is open to the public.

Members of the State Preserves Advisory Board are Deborah Lewis, Carl Kurtz, Gail Brown, Scott Moats, Armando Rosales, Cynthia Peterson and Liz Christiansen, deputy director of the DNR

A more detailed agenda is available on the Iowa DNR's website www.iowadnr.gov under State Parks / Preserves, then click on Preserves Advisory Board link.

The following is the meeting agenda.

- Approve Agenda
- Approve Minutes of July Meeting
- Grazing as a Management Tool
- Preserve Updates
- Proposed Trail at Starr's Cave
- Proposed Trail at Lamson Woods
- Proposed Glenwood State Preserve
- Proposed Addition to Eureka Woods
- Open Discussion
- January Meeting and 2008 Schedule

For more information, contact Daryl Howell at 515-281-8524.

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IOWA FISHING REPORT

For the week of September 25, 2007
www.iowadnr.gov

Fishing reports will be issued every other week into the fall. For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

Southeast

Mississippi River Pools 16 to 20: River conditions are forecasted to stay fairly stable over the next week. River stage at Lock and Dam 15 is 4.79 feet, Lock and Dam 16 is 4.01 feet, Muscatine is 6.31 feet, Lock Dam 17 is 4.61 feet, and Lock and Dam 18 is 2.16 feet. Water temperature throughout the pools is around 72 degrees.

Channel catfish are being caught throughout the pools along the main channel on stink baits and chicken liver.

Crappies are being caught along the **Harbor Road** and in **Sunset Marina** in Pool 16 on minnows. There are also reports of crappies being caught in **Big Timber** and at **Lake Odessa** in Pool 17. Some crappies are also being caught in the **Huron Island** complex and **New Boston Bay** area of Pool 18.

A few walleyes and saugers are being caught around **Credit Island** (Pool 16).

Bluegills are being caught in the **Big Timber** backwater of Pool 17, and around **Credit Island** in Pool 16.

White bass are being caught in **Sylvan Slough** (Pool 16).

There are also reports of bullheads being caught in **Lake Odessa** (Pool 17).

Lake Darling (Washington): Catfishing is fair around the rocks for catfish feeding on crayfish and small bluegills. The crappies have not moved in for the fall feed....look for them to move in as the water cools.

Lake Geode (Henry): The road at Geode from the beach turn off by the campground all the way to the turn off at the dam on Hwy. J-20 will be closed through October 1 at the earliest and mid-October at the latest. Both boat ramps and the beach area will be closed off during this time. The only access points on the lake will be shore fishing from the dam/spillway areas, shelter 3 and shelter 4 on the south end of the lake.

Lake Belva Deer (Keokuk): Bluegill fishing remains good, with the fish in 10 to 13 feet of water. Catfishing is very good with the catfish working the rip rap and around the fish cleaning stations.

Lake Odessa (Louisa): Look to the Horseshoe Bend and Burris Ditch areas to catch some very nice crappies as they start schooling up to make the fall migration to the over wintering areas.

Lake Rathbun (Appanoose): Walleyes have been hitting crankbaits trolled along drop-offs and underwater islands. Crappies have been found around submerged structure and have been biting on a jig tipped with a minnow.

Lake Sugema (Van Buren): Crappies and walleyes have been hitting on minnows and crankbaits in the evenings. Bluegills have been biting on small jigs tipped with a minnow or chunk of night crawler.

Lake Wapello (Davis): Largemouth bass have been hitting on spinner baits and other artificial presentations around the underwater habitat. Bluegills and crappies have been biting on jigs tipped with a minnow or night crawler. Anglers having the best success have been drifting in the deeper parts of the lake.

Lake Keomah (Mahaska): Largemouth bass have been hitting on crankbaits and spinner baits. Channel catfish have been biting on night crawlers.

Lake Macbride (Johnson): Crappies are still holding in the brush piles. Fish in and around the brush with small jigs or minnows and expect quite a few small to average sized fish with the occasional larger one.

Coralville Reservoir (Johnson): White bass are hitting if you can find the schools. Troll small shad colored crankbaits to cover water and find the aggressive fish. A few anglers are picking up some nice sized crappies around brush. Use a vertical approach with jigs or minnows.

Kent Lake (Johnson): Bluegills, channel catfish, and largemouth bass are being caught. Try around the brush piles with small worms or wax worms for the bluegills. Use night crawlers or liver for the catfish. Crankbaits and soft plastics have been producing best for bass around wood and on the dam.

Lake Iowa (Iowa): Anglers are picking up some catfish and largemouth bass. The catfish are being taken mostly on stink bait and night crawlers, while the largemouth can be caught on a variety of artificial lures.

Skunk River (Washington and Henry): Although water levels are still above normal for this time of year, the river has remained stable for a couple of weeks now. Catfishing has been fairly good as the fish start on their fall feeding.

Iowa River (Louisa): The River has dropped about eight inches this last week but it does not seem to have affected the catfishing much. The catfishing remains fair to

good if you can keep your bait away from the little ones. The young of the year catfish have reached that size (5 inches) where they get really good at stealing bait.

Cedar River (Linn): Some anglers are picking up a few flathead catfish. Most of the fish caught have been just below the dams. A variety of baits have been working.

For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.

Northeast

Mississippi River 9 to 15: Water levels on the Mississippi River have been stable to slowly rising. Water levels to begin the last week of September were 7.59 feet at McGregor, 7.97 at Dubuque, 4.95 feet at Bellevue, and 9.41 feet at Camanche. Water temperature is 71 degrees.

Walleye and sauger fishing is fair to good in **Pools 9 to 15**. In **Pool 9**, try trolling a 3-way rig with live bait in Minnesota Slough. In **Pool 10**, fish the tailwaters of Lock 9 using *zips* and *one-eyes*. In **Pools 12 to 15**, fish along the wing dams using crankbaits and three-way rigs tipped with a leech or worm. Fishing for both these species will improve as water temperature continues to cool.

Bluegill and crappie fishing has been good in **Pools 9 to 15**. Look for panfish in brush piles and snags in the sloughs and backwaters with flowing water.

Largemouth bass fishing is good in **Pools 9 to 15**. Fish around snags in backwater areas such as Harpers Slough (**Pool 10**) or Cassville Slough (**Pool 11**). In **Pools 12 to 15**, largemouth and smallmouth bass were biting well on crankbaits fished along rocky shorelines, tailwater areas and wing dams with current.

White bass are feeding around exposed wing dams in **Pools 9 to 11**. Anglers are having the best success fishing with jigs.

Fishing for channel catfish and freshwater drum is good to excellent in **Pools 9 to 15**. For both species, use night crawlers and try fishing in areas with current around fallen trees or above the wing dams.

Northern pike fishing is fair in **Pools 12 to 15**. Pike concentrate in areas with cool water influx such as creek mouths and springs.

Cedar River (Mitchell, Floyd and Chickasaw): Good numbers of crappie are being caught below the dam at Charles City. The preferred lure has been 2-inch twister tails. Walleye fishing is fair in the deeper pools using jigs tipped with a minnow. Some are being caught on crankbaits as well. Smallmouth bass fishing is good throughout the river, but the fish are not concentrated in specific areas.

Cedar (Bremer and Black Hawk) and **Shell Rock** (Butler and Bremer) **rivers**: Walleye and smallmouth bass are biting on crankbaits and jigs tipped with a minnow or night crawler. Fishing is fair for channel catfish using night crawlers or cut baits.

Maquoketa River (Delaware): Smallmouth bass fishing is good using crankbaits and jigs. Walleye are also hitting on crankbaits and jigs tipped with a night crawler or minnow. Catfishing is fair.

Turkey River (Clayton): Smallmouth bass fishing is excellent throughout the river. Smallies are biting on a variety of lures and live baits. Walleye can be caught in the deeper pools with slow-moving artificial lures.

Upper Iowa River (Winnebago and Allamakee): Smallmouth bass fishing is excellent throughout the river for medium-size and larger fish. They are biting on

everything from crankbaits to twister tails in the pool and riffle areas. Walleye fishing has been just as good using crankbaits, Shad Raps and white twister tails in the deeper pools. Crawdad imitations fished near woody structure has also been working exceptionally well. Below the lower dam, black and white twister tails on a ¼ ounce jig head is working well.

Wapsipinicon River (Buchanan): Walleye and smallmouth bass are biting. Use crankbaits or jigs tipped with a minnow or night crawler for best success. Some anglers are catching channel catfish on cut baits and night crawlers.

Yellow River (Allamakee): Smallmouth bass and trout fishing is good. The water level has dropped quite a bit and should continue to stabilize with the absence of heavy rains.

Black Hawk County Area Lakes: Fishing is good for largemouth bass using crankbaits and spinner baits.

Casey Lake (Tama): Largemouth bass are hitting crankbaits and spinner baits.

Lake Delhi (Delaware): Crappie fishing is good to excellent using jigs tipped with a minnow or minnows fished under a slip bobber. Some bluegills and largemouth bass are also being caught on minnows.

Lake Hendricks (Howard): Channel catfishing has slowed, but a few are still being caught on night crawlers fished on the bottom. Bluegill fishing is fair, but picking up. Try using smaller gear when fishing mid-day to hook the finicky ones. People are starting to catch good numbers of crappie using jigs tipped with a minnow. There are reports of quality largemouth bass being caught with a variety of artificial lures as well.

Lake Meyer (Winneshiek): Some of the larger, 7 to 9 ½-inch crappies are moving into the brush piles on the south and west sides of the lake. They are being caught with small jigs under a bobber. Try throwing the rig a few feet past the snags and reeling in toward them. This works really well if the wind is blowing into the snags. Some are being caught with artificial jointed minnows trolled out in the deeper water. Bluegill fishing is good for medium-sized fish on night crawlers or angle worms. Largemouth fishing has slowed, but there have been some fish caught on artificial worms. Channel catfish fishing has slowed, but a few are still being caught in the afternoon on the east cove of the lake.

Volga Lake (Fayette): Largemouth bass fishing is good in the early morning and late evening hours. Use slower-moving artificial lures worked along structure. Bluegill fishing is fair using wax worms or night crawlers on a very small hook under a bobber. Catfishing has slowed, but there is an excellent population of channel catfish in this lake. A good number of them are in the trophy-sized range.

Trout fishing and stream conditions are excellent. The last week of September marks the end to the announced trout stockings; however, weekly stockings on the trout streams continue through the month of October. The fall is a beautiful time of the year to fish the coldwater streams of northeast Iowa.

For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.

Northwest

Spirit Lake (Dickinson): Largemouth bass fishing is fair on the North Grade. Walleye fishing is fair trolling crankbaits. The north end has produced a few fish.

West Okoboji (Dickinson): Muskie fishing is good casting and trolling. Smallmouth bass fishing is good on shallow rocks using jigs and plastics. Yellow perch fishing is good fishing weed beds in Smith's, the North Bay and Emerson Bay. Bluegill fishing is good in many areas of the lake. Small jigs tipped with garden worms are excellent baits. Find standing vegetation.

East Okoboji (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is starting to pick up casting near bridges. White bass fishing is good near bridge areas in the evening.

Little Spirit (Dickinson): Fishing is excellent for panfish on the south end of the lake.

Silver Lake (Clay): Fishing is good for 8 to 10-inch bullheads using night crawlers.

Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo): Yellow bass are hitting live bait or cut bait all around the lake. Reefs or shorelines with wave action provide good action. The deep water north and west of the Island is also producing good numbers of yellow bass. Yellows in the 7 to 9 inch range are being caught, along with a few large yellows. Walleye fishing is good on the rock reefs using a jig and night crawler or trolling crankbaits around the reefs and rushes. White bass along with a few perch are being caught while fishing for yellow bass.

For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.

Southwest

Icaria (Adams): Several channel catfish are being caught in 3 to 5 feet of water on night crawlers or dip baits. Mid-sized walleyes can be caught by trolling across the rock mounds or rock shoreline areas.

Little River (Decatur): Fishing for channel catfish is fair at the upper end of the lake.

Green Valley (Union): Channel catfish is fair on stink bait or night crawlers in the shallows.

Three Mile (Union): A few walleye can be caught from the mounds or the creek channel. Some crappies have been caught from the flooded trees in the coves on jigs or minnows.

Three Fires (Taylor): Some nice channel catfish can be caught on stink baits. Bluegill and crappie can be caught from the flooded trees or edges of the fish mounds.

Twelve Mile (Union): Several mid-sized walleye and largemouth bass are being caught from the mounds and steep rock shoreline areas. Some nice sized bluegills can be caught from the fish mounds using night crawlers.

Fogle Lake (Ringgold): Several nice channel catfish can be caught on night crawlers or in 3 to 5 feet of water. Some nice crappies can be caught from the flooded trees on minnows.

Farm Ponds: Channel catfish and largemouth bass fishing is good.

Contact Gary Sobotka (641) 464-3108 for information on the above area lakes.

Big Creek (Polk): Crappie fishing continues to be consistent. The most successful anglers are drifting out in the main lake. Try small pumpkinseed jigs or bait in 12 to 18 feet of water. Small bass are being caught up in the shallows on plastics.

Ahquabi (Warren): Bass fishing is good on just about anything from small crankbaits to plastic worms. Catfishing is fair on stink bait and liver.

Hickory Grove (Story): Crappie and bluegill fishing is hit or miss right now. Small jigs with bait under a bobber around brush or the wind blown shore has been producing the most consistent action. Some smaller largemouth bass are being caught on artificial lures. Catfishing is decent on liver in the evenings.

Easter Lake (Polk): Walleye and bass fishing continues to be slow. Small bluegills are being caught on jig and worm combinations under a bobber. The channel catfish bite is picking up with most success coming on night crawlers and liver.

Don Williams (Boone): Bluegills are being caught on jigs and worms. A few crappies are also being caught. Channel catfish are biting on liver and worms. Bass fishing is fair on spinner baits and plastics.

Rock Creek (Jasper): Catfishing is fair on cut bait and liver. Crappies are running a little small, but they are being caught in deeper water with jig and minnow combinations. Walleye fishing has been pretty slow lately as well as the bass fishing. Recent rains have made the water pretty murky.

Contact: Ben Dodd (515)432-2823, Ext.108, for information on the above area lakes

Orient (Adair): Channel catfish are fair during the day on prepared baits. Bluegills are fair using small jigs tipped with night crawlers. Largemouth bass is fair using a slow retrieve and plastic worms in the evenings.

Nodaway (Adair): Bluegill and crappie are slow, but a few are being caught around brush piles. Channel catfish is fair using liver in the evenings.

Greenfield (Adair): Bluegill fishing is fair with fish being caught around brush piles or drifting jigs tipped with night crawlers. Largemouth bass are being caught using plastic baits and spinner baits. Channel catfish fishing has been fair using liver.

Morman Trail (Adair): Bluegills are fair on south and west side of lake in brush piles. Channel catfish is fair using liver around jetties and in the shallow bays in the evening. Largemouth bass can be caught on plastic baits.

Littlefield (Audubon): Crappie fishing is slow, but a few are being caught drifting a jig and minnow. Bluegills are slow casting a small jig tipped with night crawlers. Channel catfish has been fair in shallow bays and corners of the dam using stink bait.

Anita (Cass): Anglers are catching 7 to 8-inch bluegill using jigs from shore and around the jetties. Channel catfish, 2 to 6 pounds, are being caught on night crawlers and blood bait. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair for fish up to 18 inches. Crankbaits and jigs have been used around brush piles and rock piles.

DeSoto Bend (Harrison): Crappie fishing is slow. Channel catfish is fair using dip baits with a red worm.

Manawa (Pottawattamie): Channel catfish is fair drifting cut bait or shrimp. A few wipers are being caught east side of lake throwing twister tails.

Arrowhead (Pottawattamie): Bluegills are slow using jigs with night crawlers. Fish are 7 to 8 inches. Channel catfish are fair using liver and prepared bait close to shore around jetties.

Prairie Rose (Shelby): Fishing is slow for crappies and bluegills drifting jigs tipped with minnows or night crawlers. Channel catfish is slow fishing shallow bays with liver. A few largemouth bass are being caught using crawdad-colored lures.

Willow (Harrison): Bluegill fishing is slow with a few fish being caught on jigs tipped with night crawlers. Fishing has been fair for 12 to 14-inch bass on plastic worms and crankbaits.

Schaben (Harrison): Bluegills are fair using small jigs tipped with night crawlers. Largemouth bass are also being caught on night crawlers and plastic baits.

Middle Raccoon River (Guthrie): The “No Kill” stretch below Lenon Mills is fair for smallmouth bass using 1/32 ounce jigs tipped with a night crawler. Bluegill fishing has been good using jigs tipped with night crawlers.

Farm Ponds: Farm ponds are good for largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish. Be sure to ask permission from the landowner first.

Contact: Bryan Hayes (712)769-2587 for information on the above area lakes.

For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

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